(c) In order to boost export of sugar from India, the Government has taken the following measures :

(i) The sugar meant for export has been exempted from the levy obligation.

(ii) The quantity of sugar released for export is treated as advance free-sale release to be adjusteed in the free sale stocks of the sugar factories after a period of 12 months, which has now been increased to 18 months.

(iii) The levy exemption on the quantity meant for commercial export of sugar, if it cannot be claimed by the sugar factories out of the sugar season from which the sugar is released to them due to completion of their levy obligations, the same can be availed by the concerned sugar factories from their production of next sugar season..

(iv) DEPB at the rate of 5% of the f.o.b. value of export of sugar has been allowed.

(v) Hitherto only mill white sugar was being exported. It has been clarified that in addition to mill white sugar the sugar mills/exporters can also export raw sugar under the present EXIM policy.

(vi) Government has decided to undertake legislation to amend the Sugar Development Fund Act, 1982 to enable it, *inter alia,* to utilize the Sugar Development Fund for defraying expenditure on internal transport and freight charges to the sugar factories on export shipment of sugar.

Availability of Sugar

†2630. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that availability of sugar is more than its consumption in the country;

(b) if so, since when such situation has arisen;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is no need of any Government control on sugar industry now; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction in this regard and by when Government would take any decision with regard to decontrolling of sugar industry?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The availability of sugar in the country has been more than the consumption since 1994-95 sugar season (October-September).

(c) and (d) The Government has taken decision to completely decontrol the sugar in a phased manner. In this regard, the levy obligation which was reduced from 40% to 30% with effect from 01-01-2000, has been further reduced to 15% with effect from 01-02-2001. As a step towards liberalization, the Government has decided to announce a quarterly free-sale quota in place of the existing monthly free-sale quota. Sugar factories have also been allowed to sell upto 10% of their quarterly free-sale quota over and above their normal quota within the quarter.

Government has also decided to introduce futures/forward trading in sugar which is a step necessary before effecting complete decontrol. Government has given in principle clearances to three proposed exchanges which are in the process of completing the procedural formalities to set up exchanges and to commence futures trading in sugar.

Allocation of foodgrains to Orissa

2631. SHRI ANANTHA SETHI : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the allocation of foodgrains to Orissa from the central pool during 2001.

(b) the month-wise/quarter-wise details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government has made any demand to enhance allocation of foodgrains to the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken to meet the demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Month-wise details of foodgrains allocated to Orissa from central pool under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) for families below poverty line (BPL),